

## Information Highlights & Resources

Learn about Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) programs at:  
[www.infanthearing.org](http://www.infanthearing.org)

Learn more about babies and hearing (an especially great site for parents) at:  
[www.babyhearing.org](http://www.babyhearing.org)

Learn more about EHDI in Idaho and Idaho's Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at:  
[www.cdhh.idaho.gov](http://www.cdhh.idaho.gov)

Learn more about the "Early Years Conference" or register at:  
[www.idahochild.org](http://www.idahochild.org)

Contact Idaho Sound Beginnings at:  
208-334-0829 for more information.

## 2006 Opportunities— Mark Your Calendars!



- ♦ Idaho Sound Beginnings Annual Roundtable, Oct. 10, Sun Valley (see page 1)
- ♦ Idaho Hospital Association Annual Conference, Oct. 7-10, Sun Valley
- ♦ Early Years Conference for all providers of early intervention and services for the zero through five population. Nov. 28-29, The Grove Hotel, Boise. (see page 1)

Find information and links at:

[www.cdhh.idaho.gov](http://www.cdhh.idaho.gov)

Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Send ideas, comments, or "Dear Janette" questions to:  
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The Newsletter of the Idaho  
NEWBORN HEARING CONSORTIUM  
and The Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Program

Summer 2006

# IDAHO SOUND BEGINNINGS

## Exciting Events for Fall 2006!

To: All Newborn Hearing Screening Consortium Members: Hospital Screening Coordinators, Nurses, Screeners, Directors of Nursing, Pediatric Audiologists, EI Specialists, and anyone interested in newborn hearing issues.

Once again the Idaho Hospital Association (IHA) will provide the time and space for the professionals involved in newborn hearing screening, diagnosis, follow-up, and intervention to meet together during the annual IHA convention. Our annual "Seminar and Roundtable" will convene in Sun Valley from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Tuesday, October 10, 2006. This year, in addition to covering program issues, from audiology to data, we will be focusing on the topics of QA/QI and issues concerning children with mild and unilateral hearing loss.

Watch for your registration packets in the mail, or for further information email: [carlinc@idhw.state.id.us](mailto:carlinc@idhw.state.id.us), 208-334-0829.

October 7-10, 2006  
Sun Valley Resort • Sun Valley, Idaho



**Always There**

73rd Annual Convention  
Idaho Hospital Association

## Save the Date!

November 28-29, 2006

The Grove Hotel \* Boise, ID



**Including sessions on Infants & Children with Hearing Loss**

## Promote and Strengthen

Knowledge of current research  
Evaluation techniques  
Best practice  
Networking

Early childhood partnerships  
Diverse populations & needs

## Who should attend:

Early Childhood -  
Advocates,  
Educators,  
Health Professionals and Providers,  
Social Service Providers,  
Parents & Caregivers, Policy Makers,  
Pediatric Audiologists,  
Speech Pathologists,  
Early Interventionists,  
Anyone concerned about  
issues affecting infants  
and young children.  
With special sessions on  
Babies & Hearing Loss

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[www.idahochild.org](http://www.idahochild.org)

What Does the Data Show:

- Preliminary data reports for the first quarter of 2006 show that
- 99% of babies born in Idaho hospitals received a hearing screening before hospital discharge,
  - 7% of these babies were referred for follow-up testing.
  - 7 Idaho babies were diagnosed with hearing loss during this time period, and have been referred for appropriate early interventions.

How did we do in 2005? (Based on data from 35 hospitals)

Good News: 9 hospitals reached or surpassed the JCIH (Joint Committee on Infant Hearing) benchmarks in the three areas of: initial screening coverage, referral rate, and follow-up rate.

Bad News: Many hospitals are still struggling to lower their refer rates and/or increase their follow-up rates.

What's on your hospital's report?



Idaho Deaf Child Honored by Governor

Jordan Mowery, Honored at the 2006 Annual Governor's Roundtable for Families and Children

Boise – The Idaho deaf and hard of hearing educational system and early intervention programs are working for the Mowery family. Jordan, a four-year-old Deaf child, was the child in Idaho selected to be honored at the seventh annual Governor's Roundtable for Families and Children this year.

Idaho's former First Lady, Patricia Kempthorne, noted: "Jordon is a strong, vibrant, amazing little boy. He and his family are Idaho treasures and epitomize the spirit of perseverance and success in our state. Knowing this little boy reminds you of the potential that lives in the heart of every child."

Through newborn hearing screenings, Jordan was identified at birth with a significant hearing loss, which has recently progressed to a severe-to-profound hearing loss in both ears. Jordan had excellent support in the 0-3 Infant Toddler Program

with coordination of speech services, sign language classes for the extended family, and much more. His language development is thriving, both American Sign Language and spoken English.

"I have learned that although my son has a hearing loss, he is not defined by his hearing loss. He is a child who is defining himself by what he can do in the world around him. He is whole. He is a joy," said his mother, Holly Thomas-Mowery.

Jordan attends a mainstream preschool where he has the opportunity to access his world through interpreting interns from Idaho State University. Four mornings a week, Jordan attends the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind's satellite Total Communication preschool in Meridian. He makes full use of his brightly-colored hearing aids and loves to see stories signed to him.

Meridian Mayor Tammy de Weerd was among those who heard Jordan's inspiring story at the Governor's Roundtable. "What a terrific

family. It's always great to see parents taking a proactive role in doing what it takes to help their kids be successful in the world, said de Weerd."

De Weerd and ACHD staff members have also contributed to Jordan's success in a unique way. Upon hearing that his parents had been working toward getting a "Deaf Child Area" sign erected in their Meridian neighborhood, their staffs teamed up to hasten the project and the safety sign is now in place, just in time for the warm weather when Jordan and his friends will be spending more time playing outdoors.



Janette's Pearls of Wisdom

This column is designed as part of our statewide efforts to ensure that not even one baby misses the 1-3-6 goals for completing all hearing screening by 1 month of age, diagnostic testing by 3 months of age, and with early intervention begun by 6 months of age when needed.

QUALITY CHECKLIST

Do you always:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Send your data in monthly?   | ✓ Ensuring that all follow-up screening information is received, and the data files are updated on time, minimizing time wasted on needless referrals and outreach.               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Get parent/guardian signatures at the first 'not passing' result?      | ✓ So that no baby is lost to follow-up!   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that the screening result is entered correctly in the computer? | ✓ Again, minimizing time wasted on needless referrals, minimizing the extra time needed to manually correct the data file, and ensuring that no baby is lost to timely follow-up! |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enter only the LAST name in the LAST name field?                       | ✓ Please use the FIRST name field for entering the FIRST name, or Baby Boy, or Baby Girl.   |

Are you new to Newborn Hearing Screening? Do you have a baby who referred and need to know what the next step is? Do you need a brush-up on your screening technique? Consult the "Guidelines for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention." If you need another copy, or need more information, please contact us at 208-334-0829.

AUDIOLOGY CORNER

"Training Opportunity for Idaho's Pediatric Audiologists

The National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management provided a training opportunity in July and August of 2006 for Audiologists and AuD students interested in expanding their knowledge and skills in the "Auditory Evaluation of Infants." The training included weekly on-line instruction followed by several full days of on-site instruction in auditory evaluation of infants, behavioral assessment of young children, and selection and fitting of amplification for infants and toddlers.

Idaho Sound Beginnings was able to provide scholarships for three Audiologists from around the state to attend these workshops: April Fagerson (Meridian), Stephen Jones (Twin Falls), and Kim Briggs (Idaho Falls) each attended two of the three training sessions offered. These audiologists expressed a dedication to early diagnosis and intervention for infants with hearing loss.

As a condition of receiving the scholarships, they each agreed to provide two training sessions in pediatric audiology for Idaho Sound Beginnings.